



Montana Water Supply and Moisture Status by County - September 2015

<http://drought.mt.gov>

Map Key

- Drought Impact Type
- Continental Divide

Moisture Status

Current Month

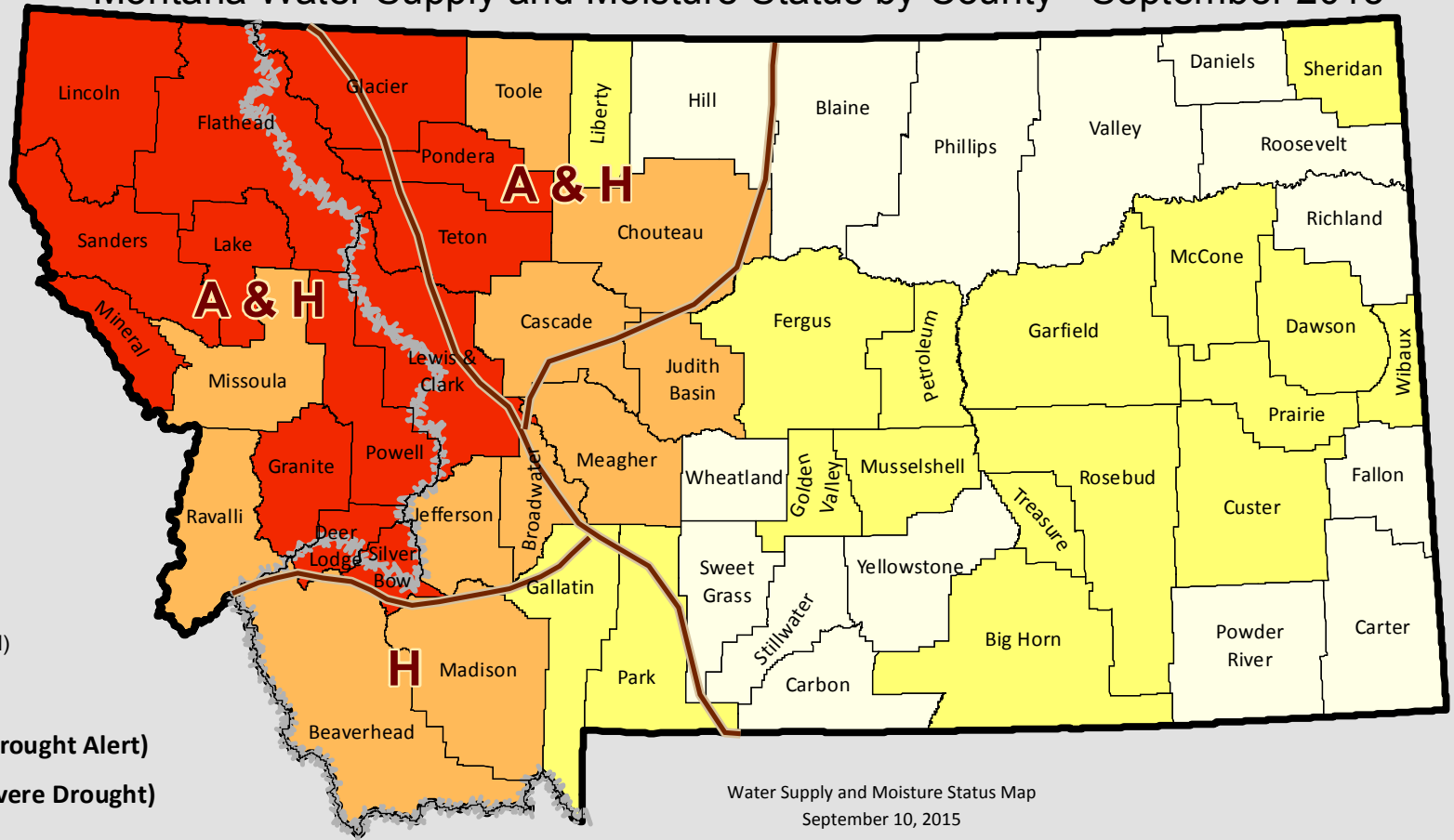
- Extremely Moist
- Moderately Moist
- Slightly Moist
- Near Average (Normal)
- Slightly Dry
- Moderately Dry **(Drought Alert)**
- Extremely Dry **(Severe Drought)**

Drought Impact Types -

- A** = Agricultural - Soil Moisture, Range conditions
- H** = Hydrological - Water Supplies, Streamflow, Groundwater

Drought Alert - Governor's Drought Advisory Committee strongly encourages local officials to convene local drought committees.

Severe Drought - Local officials should have local drought planning efforts underway or should reconvene the local drought committee at the earliest opportunity. For recommended responses, see the Montana Drought Plan



Water Supply and Moisture Status Map
September 10, 2015

According to the National Weather Service, Crop Year to date (April 1, 2015 – September 6, 2015) precipitation totals at valley elevations ranged from about 80 - to 100-percent of normal for the **southwest** region; 50- to 70-percent for the **western** region; 90- to 110-percent for the **northeastern** region; 80- to 100-percent for the **central** region; 80- to 110 percent for the **northcentral** region; 90- to 120-percent for the **southcentral** region, and 90- to 120-percent for the **southeast** region, with exceptions in all seven regions of the state.

Flows in the Yellowstone, and lower Missouri River Basins are currently rated as Normal to Below Normal at this time. Flows in the Clark Fork River basin are Normal to Much below Normal according to the USGS as of September 10, 2015:
<http://waterwatch.usgs.gov/new/index.php?m=real&r=mt&w=map>

The September 1, 2015 NRCS Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) map rates only 4 of 54 Montana river basins as within the *Near Average* range of flow and 9 river basins within the *Slightly Dry* category leaving the remaining 41 river basins in the *Moderately Dry* and the *Extremely Dry* categories. Almost all of the river basins in the *Moderately Dry* and *Extremely Dry* categories lie west of the Continental Divide. See:
http://docs.msl.mt.gov/geoinfo/CurrentSWSI/Current_SWSI.pdf

Cooler than normal temperatures over the course of the past few weeks with scattered rain events and decreasing hours of daylight have offered relief for fisheries struggling with very low stream flows. The September 6 USDA Crop Progress Report noted topsoil moisture at 45-percent Adequate to Surplus and subsoil moisture 48 percent rated as Adequate to Surplus. More precipitation is sorely needed according to grain producers for suitable seeding conditions of the 2016 winter wheat crop.



http://apps.msl.mt.gov/Geographic_Information/Maps/Drought